

§ 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

***Amendments***

*In the Claims*

Please cancel claims 12, 14, 18, and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please substitute the following claim 1 for currently pending claim 1:

B<sup>1</sup>

1. (Twice amended) A method of classifying cancer cells in a body fluid sample of a patient with cancer or a patient suspected of having cancer, said method comprising: isolating circulating cancer cells from said body fluid sample of said patient, and classifying said isolated cancer cells as terminal cells or proliferative cells by cytological and morphological analyses using fluorescence microscopy.

(Please substitute the following claim 3 for currently pending claim 3:)

B<sup>2</sup>

3. (Twice amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said terminal cell is about 20-50 micrometers in diameter.

(Please substitute the following claim 4 for currently pending claim 4:)

4. (Once amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one cancer cell is a terminal cell that is a fragile, large cancer cell without a nucleus.

B<sup>2</sup>  
(Please substitute the following claim 5 for currently pending claim 5:)

5. (Once amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said terminal cell is about 20-40 micrometers in diameter.

(Please substitute the following claim 6 for currently pending claim 6:)

6. (Twice amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one cancer cell is a terminal cell with a nucleus.

B<sup>3</sup>  
(Please substitute the following claim 8 for currently pending claim 8:)

8. (Once amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one cancer cell is a proliferative cell.

Please substitute the following claim 10 for currently pending claim 10:

10. (Once amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said cancer cell is a small proliferative cell that is a dividing cell.

B<sup>4</sup>  
(Please substitute the following claim 11 for currently pending claim 11:)

11. (Once amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least three of said isolated cancer cells are in the form of a microtumor.

Please substitute the following claim 15 for currently pending claim 15:

B<sup>5</sup>  
15. (Once amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said body fluid sample is blood.

Please substitute the following claim 19 for currently pending claim 19:

19. (Twice amended) A method of determining the presence or absence of cancer cells capable of causing metastatic cancer, comprising:

- B6
- (a) isolating circulating cancer cells in a body fluid sample of a patient with cancer or a patient suspected of having cancer;
  - (b) classifying said isolated cancer cells as terminal cells or proliferative cells by cytological and morphological analyses using fluorescence microscopy, thereby determining the presence or absence of cancer cells capable of causing metastatic cancer.

Please substitute the following claim 21 for currently pending claim 21:

21. (Twice amended) A method of determining the efficacy of a medical procedure for treatment of cancer in a patient, said method comprising:

- B7
- (a) conducting a first isolation of circulating cancer cells in a body fluid sample of the patient;
  - (b) classifying said isolated cancer cells as terminal cells or proliferative cells by cytological and morphological analyses using fluorescence microscopy;
  - (c) conducting a second isolation of circulating cancer cells in a body fluid sample of the patient;
  - (d) repeating (b) on said second isolated cancer cells; and
  - (e) comparing the number or classes of said first isolated cancer cells to the number or classes of said second isolated cancer cells, wherein the first isolation is conducted before the administration of the medical procedure and the second isolation is

B<sup>7</sup>  
conducted after the administration of the medical procedure, thereby determining the efficacy of said medical procedure.

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Please substitute the following claim 23 for currently pending claim 23:

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23. (Once amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the presence of more terminal cells in the second isolation than in the first isolation is indicative of a positive response to the medical procedure.

B<sup>8</sup>  
(Please substitute the following claim 24 for currently pending claim 24:)

24. (Once amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the presence of more proliferative cells in the second isolation than in the first isolation is indicative of a negative response to the medical procedure.

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